THg SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF MINISTERS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1985

THI MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further 1_0 amend the Salaries and Allowances of Miniete'rs Act, 1952, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Jf the hon. Members were to go through the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it in. fact sv<mma.rises the basis on which this Bill has been brought and passed in the Lok Sabha. The Bill seeks—

(a) to provide that Ministers shall be entitled to a salary, daily allowances and constituency allowance at the same rates as a Member of Parliament;

(b) to increase the ampunt payable to Ministers by way of sumptuary allowance and exempt from.
income-tax the value of the official residence provided to 'a Minlister; and

(c) to extend the facility of free travel in respect of six return journeys pep year within India to one $membe_r$ of the family of a Ministe'r accompanying him on such journeys.

These are the objects that we have in view. I do not think it requires any more elucidation and I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

The qnestion ivas proposed.

SHRI S. W. DHABE (Maharashtra): Madam, here the word used is "constituency allowance". Members o'f Parliament, when they are not attending the Session, do not get any daily allowance. Are the Ministers entitled to it when they ar_e on tour? Whether this will be in addition to the daily allowance o_r afly other allowance, when they go on tour?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I think this position is absolutely clear. They a're *ig* treated as on duty throughout the year. On that basis whateve^ allowances are there, they will • be entitled to them.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: My question was different. Whether it will be in addition to that.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPEN- . DRA. (Andhra Pradesh'.): 1 have a fundamental objection to equating Ministers with Members of Parlia-' ment. Mr. Chavan has proved to be very clever in this. As regards emoluments, allowances etc. he is comparing with the Members of Parliament. But when it cornes to the free things, he is not mentioning about anything. Ministers are Ministers and the're is no question of treating them at par with Members of Parliament only in this respect. If ' they are at pa'r, they should be at par in every thing. There is no need to compare them with Members of Parliament. They should have been separately described and their emoluments should have been treated separately.

Sepondly, as regards sumptuary allowance, I do not find any justifica tion fo_r a diffe'rence between the amounts provided for a Minister of State and a Deputy Minister, because, after all, this allowance is spent on entertainment and the number of visitors does not always depend on the status of the Minister. In fact, junior Ministers get many more visitors than the . seniolr Ministers because the latter are not easily ' approachable and are- also not avail able. I feel that the sumptuary allow ance must be equal at least for Ministers of State and the Deputy Ministers, if not equal with the Cabinet Ministers. ~- '

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now T think it is tim_e for Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad and Shri Kesri to thank you.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Two points are absolutely clea'r, if the hon.

Members were to go through th« reasoning as to what should have beer the -basig which we could have adoptee for equating the salaries and allow ances of Members and Ministers Madam, the basis has been thai ultimately every Minister is s Member of Parliament, Sa, he is to be given the ^ime facili ties . which are otherwise available to all Members of Parliament excepting when he has to reside in Delhi he is to be provided with a house and other facilities. So, thi.3 is what has been attempted.

SHRI PARVATHANENI .UPENDRA; You want to have best of both the worlds!

THI DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: And you know, there is always the ' hance of reverting back as a Member of Parliament. These are the hazards.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Don't wish him that!

SHRj S. B. CHAVAN: About the: other point which the honourable Member has suggested, I think he better come and sit in the chambers of the Cabinet Minister. Minister of State and Deputy Minister, and he will immediately realize what difference it is. Sumptuary allowance is something whieh, in fact, has to be given to all the Cabinet Ministers because there are so many delegations and so many other people who have to be entertained—not because we like it... (*In terruptions).*

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA; I didn't say 'No' to you.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: In fact, it would have been better if we could have provided to others, but as things stand this is how it has been finalized and I don't think it needs any more justification.

I again commend thi.., Bill for the consideration of the House.

j THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; The ; question is:

"That the Bill further to amend-the Salaries and Allowances af • .Minister-Act, 1952. as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into con-. sideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 5 *were added to the Bill.*

Clause l *the Enacting Formula and tha Title were added to the BHI*

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Madarn, I . beg to move:

"That the Bill be returned." *The motion was adopted.*

THE PRESIDENT'S PENSION (AMENDMENT) Bill, 198-5. SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Madarn, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the President's Pension Act, 1951 as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Madam, there are only two provisions whieh we have provided in this Bill. One is to increase the salary of the President from Rs. 10,000 to Rs, 15.000 per mensem and the other is to increase the pension from 15,000 to Rs. 30.000 per annum. These are the ony two amendments that we have.

I commend this Bill for the consideration of the House.

The question was proposed.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam. the President is the Head of the State and whatever we give him ghould b* ' respectable enough. In consequence